

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Office for withdrawing the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In particular, claims 23 and 33 are currently being amended, and new claims 44-52 are currently being added.

The specification has been amended to incorporate patent numbers and application serial numbers missing from pages 2, 19, and 36 as originally filed. Claim 23 has been amended to recite a plurality of sensors, in which the environmental data obtained from the plurality of sensors is acquired by way of a distributed network. Claim 23 has also been amended to recite that the environmental condition corresponds to at least one of a chemical, biological or radiation condition. Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form. These amendments add no new matter. The specification provides support for the amendments to claim 23 on page 8, lines 9-13, on page 8, lines 19-30, on page 19, lines 3-34, and in Figures 1, 3A and 3B.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 23-25 and 27-52 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Claims 33-43

Applicants thank the Office for indicating that claims 33-43 would be allowable if claim 33 were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim (see Office Action, page 4, lines 5-7). Applicants have rewritten

claim 33 in appropriate independent form with all the limitations of base claim 23. Accordingly, claim 33 and its dependent claims 34-43 are allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 23-25 and 27-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 6,286,363 (Discenzo).

Claims 23-25 and 27-32 as amended overcome this ground of rejection. Applicants have amended claim 23 to recite a plurality of sensors in which environmental data obtained from the plurality of sensors is acquired by way of a distributed network. Discenzo does not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of claim 23. Furthermore, claim 23 recites that the sensors are selected from at least one of a chemical sensor, a biological sensor, and a radiation sensor. Discenzo, on the other hand, is directed to a lubrication monitoring system, which does not correspond to any of a chemical, biological or radiation condition. Discenzo therefore does not anticipate claim 23. Claims 24-25 and 27-32 depend from claim 23 and are therefore also not anticipated by Discenzo.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Office withdraw this ground of rejection and allow all pending claims.

New Claims 44-52

New claims 44-52 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention that are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. For example, new claim 44 recites that the distributed network is linked to at least one external system, and new claim 45 recites a server that is used to provide information to/from the external system. Support for these claims may be found, for example, on pages 8-10 of the specification. Such features are absent from the cited art of record. New claims 46-48 recite that at least two different types of sensors are used in the plurality of sensors, whereby this feature is absent from the cited art of record. New claim 49 recites features concerning the obtaining of visual information as part of the environmental data, whereby support

for those features may be found, for example, on page 18, lines 29-31 of the specification. Such features are absent from the cited art of record. New claim 50 recites additional features of the visual information. New claim 51 recites that the output is provided to a network, to thereby obtain the output at a location remote from the first knowledge based system. In Discenzo, on the other hand, it describes that "the lubrication analyzer 90 includes a display 92 for displaying to an operator information related to the health of the lubricant." Clearly, Discenzo does not disclose or suggest the features recited in new claim 51. Lastly, new claim 52, which finds its support on the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 of the specification, for example, recites features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art of record. With such features as recited in claim 52, a person can be notified of the output results from any location, by using a pager or cellular phone, for example.

Conclusion

Accordingly, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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